agencies as per Government instructions issued from time to time on the basis of the post based rosters.

Importance to preventive medicines

813. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether preventive medicines are being given more importance to create a healthier nation; and

(b) if so, what are the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare attaches great importance to preventive health care. Under the Immunization Programme, vaccinations to infants and pregnant women are given for control of vaccine preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, polimyelitis, measles and neonatal tetanus. For preventing blindness, prophylactic Vitamin "A" is given to children and for prevention of anemia, Iron and Folic Acid tablets are given to children and pregnant women.

Increase in TB

814. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidence of the dreaded disease TB has increased many times in recent years;

(b) whether the incidence is more in rural areas and in the BPL population;

(c) if so, the specific measures being contemplated to combat this disease; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The incidence of TB has remained more or less the same over the recent years.

(b) to (d) There is not recent nation wide study undertaken on this